A Vindication of the Rights of Women

By Mary Wollstonecraft (page 718-726)

1. Read Meet the Author on page 718.
2. Explain the epithet “hyena in petticoats”.
3. Explain the epithet “mother of feminism”.
4. Define the term “argument”.
5. Define the term “counterargument”.
6. Explain the importance of knowing the historical context that inspires a piece of writing.
7. Define the following vocabulary words:
   1. Vindication
   2. Prerogative
   3. Inculcate
   4. Evanescent
   5. Feign
8. Do Margin Activities A-H.
9. According to Wollstonecraft, in lines 1-15, why is there “a great difference” rather than equality between the sexes?
10. In lines 12-15, Wollstonecraft compares hothouse flowers planted in too rich soil to women trained only to be beautiful. What does this comparison suggest about the education of women?
11. In lines 54-62, what kind of training does Wollstonecraft urge women to undertake so that they will achieve dignity and happiness instead of pity and contempt?
12. According to this argument (see question 11), what are the effects caused by treating women as a “frivolous sex” (line 64).
13. What claim, or position on an issue, does Wollstonecraft make in her essay? Identify 3 examples or reasons or evidence that she offers to support her claim.